ORIGINAL

Decision No. 41385

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
KEY SYSTEM TRANSIT LINES for authority)
to substitute motor coach service for)
its No. 7 Arlington Avenue - Euclid)
Avenue transit rail line in the Counties)
of Alameda and Contra Costa, in the)
State of California.

Application No. 29173

DONAHUE, RICHARDS, ROWELL & GALLAGHER by FRANK S. RICHARDS, for applicant.

FRED C. HUTCHINSON, City Attorney, JOHN D. PHILLIPS,
Assistant City Manager, and ROBERT T. ANDERSON,
Assistant City Attorney, for the City of Berkeley,
interested party.

W. G. DOANE, for the Thousand Oaks Improvement Club, interested party.

FRANK B. DRAKE, for the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce, interested party.

F. A. KNAPP, for the Berkeley View Terrace Club, interested party.

E. W. GARDINER, for the Kensington Improvement Club, interested party.

MRS. DOROTHY JEROME, ROBERT SWENSON, in propria persona, interested parties.

JOHN G. HARDING, protestant.

<u>opinion</u>

In this proceeding Key System Transit Lines requests authority to discontinue and abandon street car service within the City of Berkeley on its No. 7 Arlington Avenue - Euclid Avenue street rail line, to remove certain tracks, poles and overhead structures used in connection therewith and to establish motor coach service in the place and stead of the rail service.

A public hearing was had before Examiner Paul at Borkeley on March 24, 1948 and the matter was submitted.

The rail line involved extends from Euclid Avenue and Regal Road in the City of Berkeley to a point on Arlington Avenue

in the vicinity of Coventry Road in Contra Costa County about one block beyond the northerly boundary of the City of Berkeley. All the rails, poles and overhead structures used in connection with the operation of this rail line would be removed except those portions of said rails and overhead structures which are used for the operation of other rail lines which are not involved in this proceeding. By an agreement between applicant and the City of (1) Berkeley, heretofore approved by the Commission, portions of the trackage used in operating the No. 7 rail line have been quitclaimed to the City of Berkeley by applicant which has made payments to the City to cover the expenses of removal of the tracks and repaying the streets.

The proposed motor coach service would be over the same streets as the No. 7 rail line and would include an extension into Contra Costa County to the Kensington Park Community Center situated in the area at Arlington Avenue and Rincon Road about three-fourths of a mile beyond the end of the No. 7 rail line. Beyond the Euclid Avenue - Regal Road terminal of this rail line in the City of Berkeley applicant presently operates its No. 75 Grizzly Peak Boulevard motor coach line shuttle service along Euclid Avenue and Grizzly Peak Boulevard including a terminal loop over Arcade Avenue, Fairlawn Avenue and other streets. Under its proposal applicant would conduct a through motor coach service between the proposed Contra Costa County terminal at Kensington Park and the intersection of Euclid Avenue and Grizzly Peak Boulevard where patrons could transfer to the motor coach shuttle service. Applicant plans to operate this shuttle service from the latter inter-

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⁽¹⁾ Decision No. 37558 in Application No. 26486.

section to the Arcade Avenue terminal loop, instead of from the intersection of Euclid Avenue and Regal Road, the present rail terminal. The proposed motor coach service between the Kensington Park terminal and the Euclid Avenue - Grizzly Peak Boulevard terminal would operate on the same ten minute peak and 20 minute base frequencies as the present No. 7 rail line. The No. 75 motor coach shuttle service would be cut back about 0.65 of a mile and operate on a frequency of 20 minutes throughout the day with no service at night or on Sundays. The present shuttle service operates on a peak and base frequency of 30 minutes and 40 minutes respectively throughout the day with no night or Sunday service.

Applicant's present scale of fares would be applicable to the proposed motor coach operation.

eight new units of automotive equipment with a scated capacity of 44 passengers each to provide the proposed service between the Contra Costa County terminal at Kensington Park and the Berkeley terminal at Euclid Avenue and Grizzly Peak Boulevard. The one unit now used to provide shuttle service on the No. 75 motor coach line would be continued in service on a more frequent headway. It was also shown that under applicant's proposed plan of operation there would be a reduction in travel time over the route involved and an extension of service to Kensington Park, an area not presently served for which a public need was shown to exist. It was further shown that removal of the transit line rails would afford a better use of the streets involved which in many cases are narrow with a single track for operations in both directions. Evidence of record shows that abandonment of the No. 7 rail line as proposed

Representatives of the City of Berkeley, the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce and various improvement clubs and individuals favored applicant's proposals. The only objection to such proposals. was that of an individual who was of the opinion that the use of automotive equipment instead of rail equipment would cause a greater standee load at times and would also tend to create a greater. congestion of traffic for a short distance on Buclid Avenue north of Hearst Avenue.

After full consideration of all the facts of record, it appears that under applicant's proposals a more rapid and improved service would be provided for the public with a consequent reduction in operating expenses for applicant. Therefore, it is our - conclusion and we find that public convenience and necessity require the abandonment of applicant's No. 7 Arlington Avenue -Euclid Avenue street car line and concurrently therewith the establishment of passenger stage service as proposed by applicant.

The Commission will grant a cortificate over only those streets where necessary to enable applicant, in conjunction with its present certificates, to establish the passenger stage service over the routes as proposed.

ORDER

An application therefor having been filed, a public hearing held thereon, the matter duly submitted, the Commission being fully informed therein, and it having been found that public convenience and necessity so require,

herein authorized not later than 30 days after the effective date hereof, and shall comply with the provisions of General Order No. 79 by filing in triplicate and making effective, appropriate tariffs on or after the effective date hereof which may be made effective on not less than five days' notice to the Commission and the public.

The effective date of this order shall be 10 days from the date hereof.

Dated at Dan Francisco, California, this 30 th of March, 1948.

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Commissioners